Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of maintaining extensible markup language (XML) documents comprising:

     splitting an XML document into fragments according to rules stored in a configuration file;

     binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system;

     said content management system generating ~~providing~~ a respective reference between the XML document and each of the fragments; and

     associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

     storing content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising

     associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising

     replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

detecting an outgoing reference to a object attribute.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include configuration rules, the method further comprising:

analyzing content of the XML document using the configuration files.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include a fragment rule that removes a fragment from the XML document and replaces the fragment with a reference.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include an unparsed object rule that extracts a string associated with an unparsed object and replaces the string with a reference.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include a hyperlink rule that replaces a link to another object attribute with a reference.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include sub-rules, and said 10 wherein the sub-rules include a pattern rule that extracts textual content from a fragment.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include sub-rules, and said 10 wherein the sub-rules include [[a]]an attribute rule that assigns each object with an attribute type.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the attribute type includes logical object (LOIO) or physical object (PHIO).

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include sub-rules, and said 10 wherein the sub-rules include a class rule that provides a class name to an object.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules, and said 11 wherein encoding rules include internal entity encoding rules.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules, and said 11 wherein encoding rules include external name encoding rules.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules, and said 11 wherein encoding rules include unparsed object encoding rules.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules, and said 11 wherein encoding rules include hyperlink encoding rules.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment[[.]], binding the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

24. (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device, for executing instructions on a processor, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to:

split an XML document into fragments according to a plurality of rules stored in a configuration file;

bind each of the fragments to an object in a content management system;

generate, by said content management system, provide a respective reference between the XML document and each of the fragments; and

associate multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to store the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to associate the content with a particular object in the content management system.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to replace the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment and the computer program product is further configured to:

bind the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

provide a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

30. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a means for splitting an XML document into fragments according to a plurality of rules stored in a configuration file;

a means for binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system;

a means for generating, in said content management system, ~~providing~~ a respective reference between the XML document and each of the fragments; and

a means for associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for storing the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

33. (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising:

a means for binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

a means for providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising associating the content associated with a fragment with a particular object in the content management system.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between XML documents, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.

43. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between XML documents, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between XML documents, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.

45. (New) A method comprising:

specifying configuration rules in a content management system establishing relations between an XML document, a fragment of an XML document, and a particular object in the content management system;

analyzing the content of a plurality of XML documents using the configuration rules;

splitting a plurality of XML documents into fragments of content using the configuration rules;

associating each fragment with a particular object in said content management system; and

generating a reference between each XML document and a corresponding fragment,

wherein the content management system assembles XML documents using the references, and in accordance therewith, reuses the fragments of content in a plurality of different XML documents.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, the configuration rules comprising fragment relation rules.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, the fragment relation rules comprising a pattern sub-rule, and wherein the content management system locates fragments based on the pattern sub-rule.

48. (New) The method of claim 46, the configuration rules further comprising an unparsed object rule for extracting a string from a fragment that includes an encoded link to an unparsed object.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 the configuration rules further comprising hyperlink relation rules for detecting and generating a relation between a fragment and an object when a target object does not semantically belong to said fragment.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising reference encoding rules for making references unique, wherein internal entity names, external entity names, unparsed objects, and hyperlinks have separate reference encoding rules.

51. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising a pattern sub-rule, an attribute sub-rule, and a class sub-rule, wherein the content management system uses the pattern sub-rule to extract content, wherein the content management system uses the attribute sub-rule for binding extracted content to an object attribute, and wherein the content management system uses the class sub-rule for classifying objects.